



**U.S. Army Corps  
of Engineers**  
Honolulu District

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# Public Notice

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Public Notice No.  
200300506

Date:  
**August 1, 2003**

Reply to:  
Regulatory Branch (CEPOH-EC-R/P. Lennan)  
U.S. Army Engineer District, Honolulu  
Building 230  
Fort Shafter, Hawaii 96858-5440

Respond by:  
**September 1, 2003**

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**PN200300506  
OCEAN AQUACULTURE  
WAIANAE, OAHU, HAWAII**

1. **APPLICANT:** Ahi Farms, Inc., 233 Merchant Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-2995

2. **APPLICABLE STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** Section 10 of the River and Harbor Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403).

3. **LOCATION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY:** The activity is proposed for two sites along the Waianae Coast. One site is located approximately a mile off-shore of Ma'ili Point, the other approximately a mile off-shore of Kepuhi Point.

4. **PROJECT PURPOSE AND DESCRIPTION:** The purpose of the project is to build and operate an aquaculture farm for ahi tuna into the foreseeable future.

The applicant proposes to place up to 18 tension leg cages in one or both of the proposed sites. Each site will be about 80 acres in size. The cages will be stocked with small wild-caught yellowfin or bigeye tuna caught by local fishermen. The tuna will be fed a proprietary pellet feed and marketed when they reach 100 pounds or more. The applicant plans to begin with one cage and add more cages as funds permit. Tension leg cages are mostly submerged, but open at the surface. They will be anchored with taut Spectra rope anchor lines attached to 6 one-ton concrete blocks. The cages are approximately 75 feet in diameter and 75 feet deep and are fabricated from knotted nylon netting material.

5. **IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED ACTIVITIES IF AUTHORIZED:**

Unavoidable impacts of the proposed project would include temporary increases in nutrients in the immediate area of the cage. In addition, it is

likely there will be a change in the community structure of the fauna below the cages. The cages will also act as a fish-aggregating device (FAD), with herbivorous fishes grazing on the algae growing on the cages and anchors, and carnivorous fishes seeking prey. The cages will be a slight impediment to navigation through the area, but this area is not a major sea-lane or fishing area. If a permit is issued for this project, it will be conditioned to require cages and anchors to be removed from the ocean if the fish farm ceases operation.

**6. IMPACT ON HISTORIC PROPERTIES:**

No significant cultural or archaeological resources are known to exist within the area. In the event that unanticipated or inadvertent discovery of historic properties occur during project execution, all work shall be stopped and the State Historic Preservation Office will be notified. This is a general condition that will be included in the Department of Army permit.

This notice has been sent to the State Historic Preservation Officer, the State Office of Hawaiian Affairs and Hui Malama I Na Kupuna. Any additional comments they have regarding historic properties and cultural resources will be considered before a final decision is made on the permit.

**7. IMPACT ON ENDANGERED SPECIES:** The project will likely not have any significant effect on any proposed, candidate or listed threatened or endangered species. The Waianae Coast is not a preferred area for endangered Humpback Whales or other large whales. There is a pod of Spinner Dolphins which migrate up and down the coast, but are generally closer to shore than the proposed cage locations. Because the cages and their mooring lines are always under tension, the potential for marine animals to become entangled is very low. This notice is being sent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary. Any additional comments they have concerning potential impacts to protected species will be considered before a final decision is made on the permit.

**8. ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT:** No adverse impact to essential fish habitat is expected. This notice has been sent to the National Marine Fisheries Service. Any comments they have will be considered before a final decision is made on the permit.

**9. OTHER GOVERNMENT AUTHORIZATIONS/CERTIFICATIONS:**

A Coastal Zone Management Federal Consistency Determination will be required from the State of Hawaii Office of Planning, Coastal Zone Management Program.

**10. EVALUATION FACTORS:** The decision to issue the permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, historic values, fish and wildlife values, flood damage prevention, land use, navigation, recreation, water supply, water quality, energy needs, safety, food production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

**11. COMMENTS AND INQUIRIES:** Recipients of this Public Notice or other interested parties may submit in writing any comments that they have on the proposed issue of the permit. Comments or written inquiries may be sent by FAX to (808) 438-4060, or by mail to the address above. Comments must reach this District no later than 30 days from the date of this notice. Written inquiries and comments should refer to Public Notice number 200300506. Further information may also be obtained from William Lennan, telephone (808) 438-6986. This Public Notice is posted on the Honolulu District web site at <http://www.poh.usace.army.mil/news/PublicNotices.html>.

**11. REQUEST FOR PUBLIC HEARING:**

Any person may request, in writing, within 30 days from the date of this notice that a public hearing be held to consider the proposed permit issue. Requests for public hearing shall state clearly and concisely the reasons and rationale for holding a public hearing.

- Figure 1. Location Map
- Figure 2. Kepuhi Site Map
- Figure 3. Ma'ili Point Site
- Figure 4. Tension Leg Cage
- Figure 5. Ahi Farms Cage Configuration

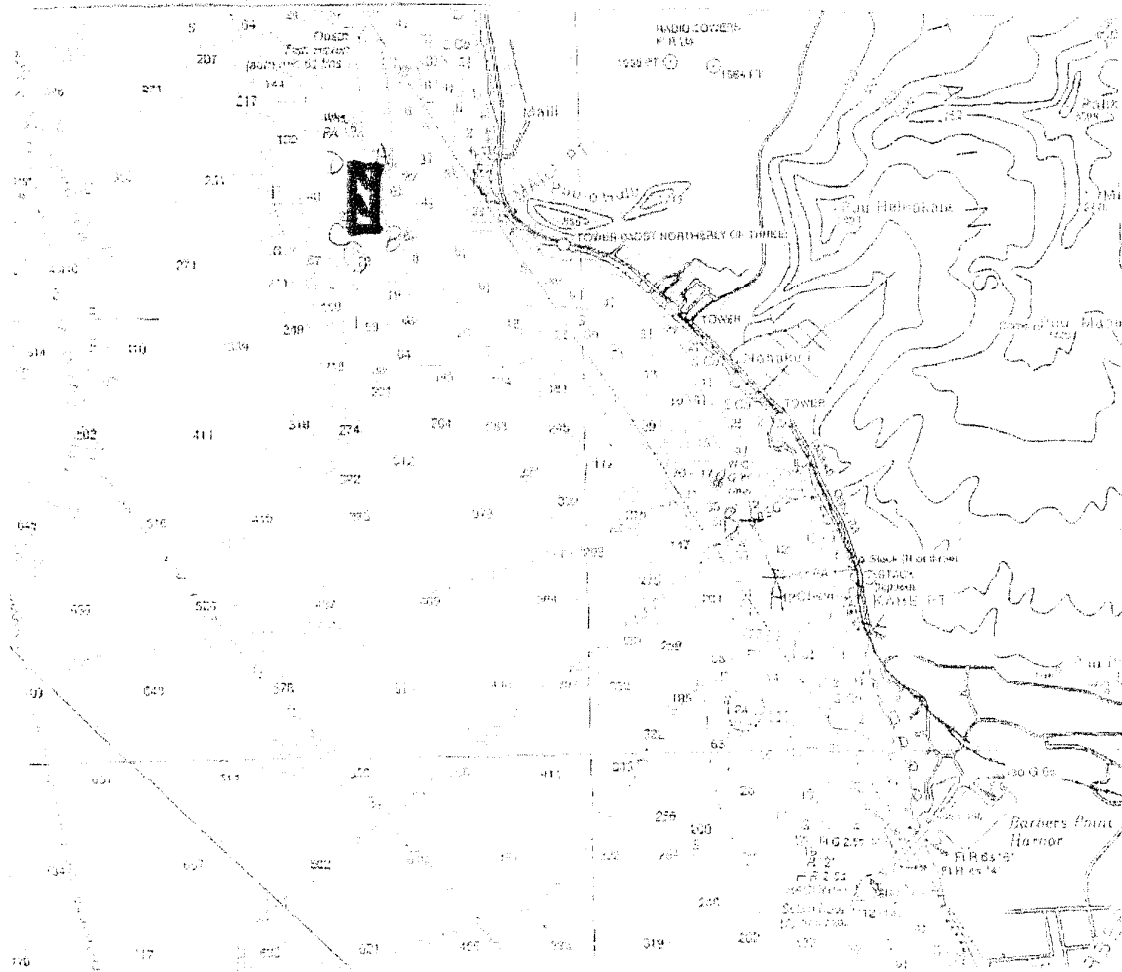


[illegible]

Reference point	latitude	longitude	depth (feet)
A	21.29.153	158.14.301	107
B	21.29.591	158.14.453	110
C	21.29.564	158.14.556	178
D	21.29.145	158.14.417	144
E	21.29.368	158.14.444	116

Figure 2

# MA'ILI POINT SITE



Reference point	latitude	longitude	depth (feet)
A	21.24.444	158.14.301	100
B	21.24.020	158.14.453	105
C	21.24.017	158.14.556	124
D	21.24.881	158.14.417	120

**Figure 3**

# TENSION LEG CAGE

PRINCIPAL DIMENSIONS

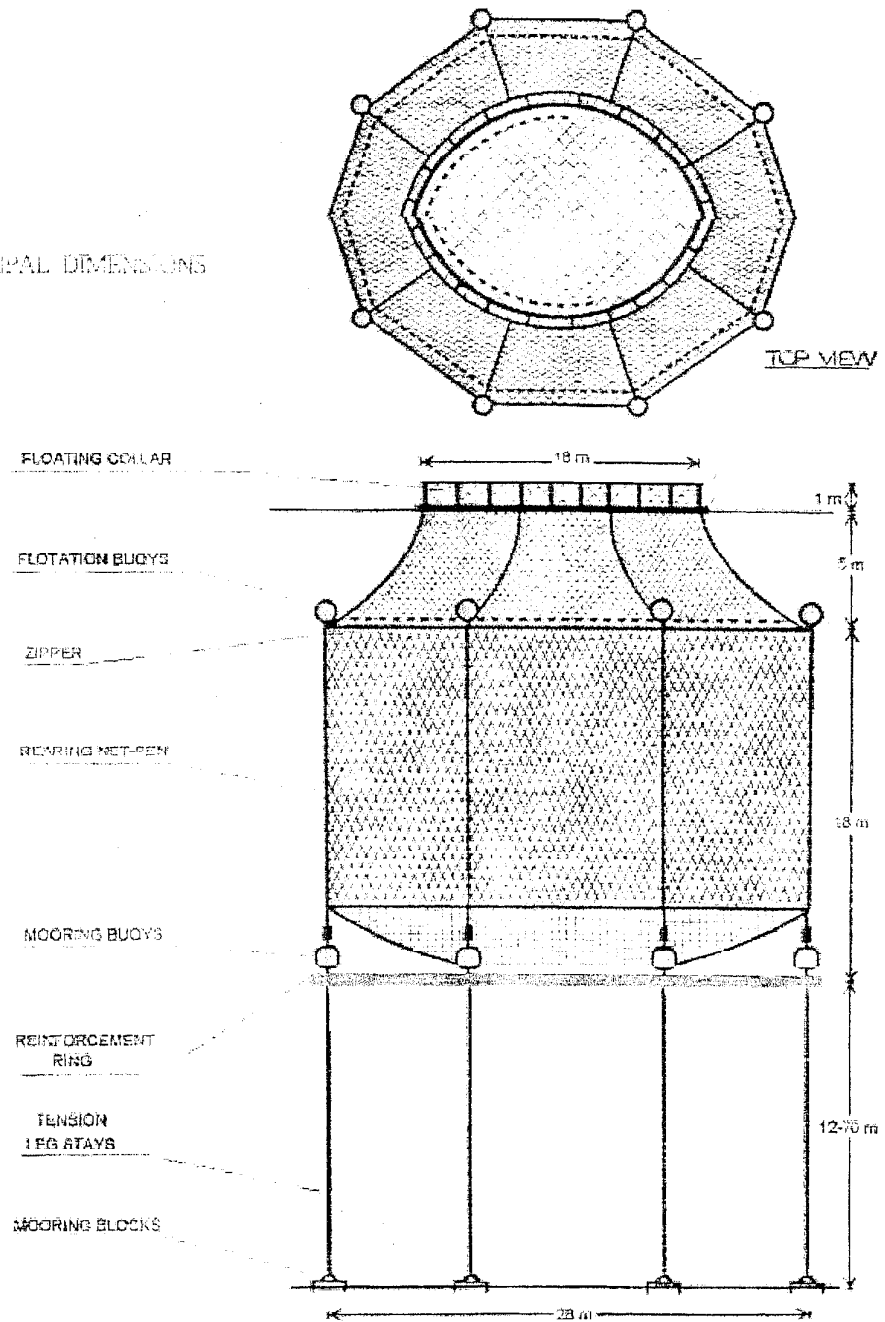
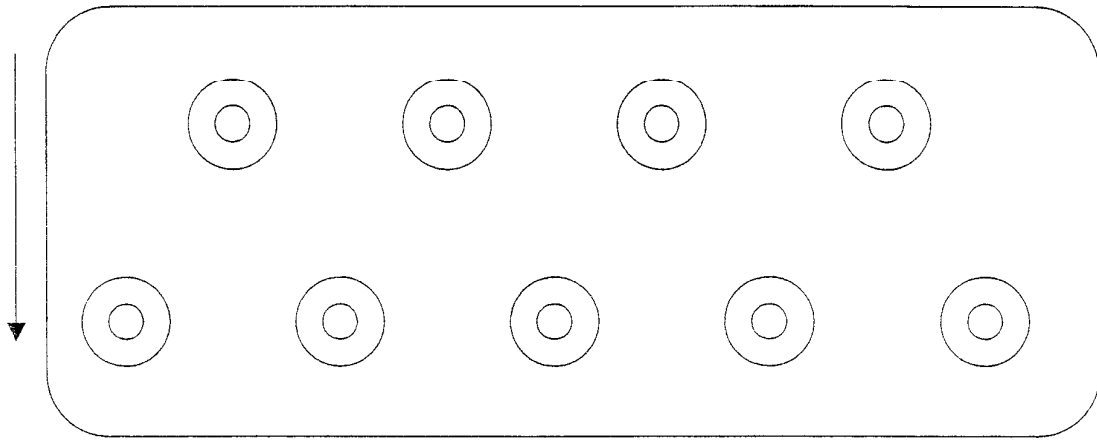


Figure 4

## AHI FARMS CAGE CONFIGURATION



This array represents approximately 8-10 acres within the 80 acre lease area. Space between cages is approximately 100-150 feet. This is the 9 cage array but ultimately there will be 18 cages at each site.

**Figure 5**